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Press Release

Press Release Announcement -- March 18, 2003 -- For Immediate Use
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February Milk Production in Pennsylvania Down 1.2 Percent

HARRISBURG --- Milk production in **Pennsylvania** during February 2003 totaled 841 million pounds, 1.2 percent below last February's production of 851 million pounds, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS). The number of milk cows in the state during the month averaged 588,000 head, down 2,000 from January but 5,000 more than February 2002.

Production per cow averaged 1,430 pounds in February, 110 pounds less than January's production per cow of 1,540 pounds and 30 pounds less than February 2002.

Milk production in the **20 states surveyed** during February 2003 totaled 11.6 billion pounds, up 1.7 percent compared to production in these same states during February 2002. January revised production, at 12.5 billion pounds, was up 1.8 percent from January 2002. The January revision represented an increase of 1 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major states averaged 1,485 pounds for February, 13 pounds above February 2002.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major states was 7.81 million head, 66,000 head more than February 2002 but 3,000 head more than January 2003.